

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action all of the claims were rejected as being obvious primarily in view of the cited Shintani patent when combined with admitted prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 is patentably distinct over such prior art.

As amended, Claim 1 now requires a sensor integrated on a single semiconductor substrate. The integrated sensor is required to have a sensor block, a signal processing block for processing a signal from the sensor block, a single electric power voltage input terminal for inputting power from a source external to the substrate, and a control circuit arranged on the single semiconductor substrate, for controlling the voltage in a particular manner.

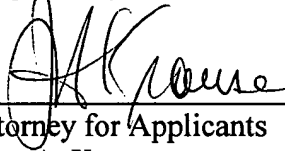
In this regard, the rejection of independent Claim 1 relies on the admitted prior art as disclosing the substrate, the sensor block and the signal processing block, and relies on the cited Shintani patent as disclosing a power supply. A hypothetical combination of such prior art, however, fails to disclose that a control circuit for performing the power supply requirements is arranged on the single semiconductor substrate. Instead, the power supply function, in such a hypothetical combination, would be understood to be performed externally, with the necessary voltages being coupled to the integrated sensor. Nothing in the prior art suggests that the Shintani power supply should be arranged as a part of the integrated sensor on the substrate.

Applicants note that none of the other cited references overcome these deficiencies of the references which are applied against Claim 1 in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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